INTRIGUES

OF THE

POPISH PLOT

LAID OPEN:

Altho' ye following Pages bear this Tytle, yet ye meaning of ym is to shew, that ye Papists were not concerno in any such thing as a Plott, tho' they suffer'd forfeit in their Lives & fortunes: but ye same was really & truly contriv'd & carryd on by ye Whiggs Presbyterians & such fanaticall Villains, as cruelly & barbarously murderd K: Chas: ye 1st.

WITH

DEPOSITIONS

Sworn before the

Secretary of STATE

By

WILLIAM SMITH, M.A.

Late School-master of ISLINGTON.

O Cœca Nocentum
Concilia!——Statius.

LONDON,

Printed for the Author, and Sold by the Booksellers of *London* and *Westminster*, Anno Dom. 1685.

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INTRIGUES

OF THE

POPISH PLOT

LAID OPEN:

WITH

DISPOSITIONS

Sworn before the

Secretary of STATE

WILLIAM SMITH, M.A.
Late School-master of ISLINGTON.

LONDON,
Printed for the Author, and Sold by the Booksellers
of Edenburgh and Glasgow. Anno Dom. 1683.

This leaf belongs after p. 32

POSTSCRIPT,

SOme things being omitted in the preceding Discourse, it may not be thought impertinent to insert them in this *Appendix*; And first, I shall give an account (so far as fell under my knowledge,) of the wrongs Dr. *Goade* Mr. of *Merchant-Taylors School* sustaind in the late time of *Fraud* and *Injustice*, hoping that Pious and Learned Person, will not take my honest and fair Intentions otherwise than I mean them.

The *Factious Party* of the Company had watch'd with malitious Eys to gain any advantage for several years against Him; But either not finding any plausible one, or esteeming him a Man so extraordinarily qualify'd, that a better could not be found in the Three Kingdoms, (and there I'm sure they were in the right,) They attempted not to Eject him, but lessen'd him in Priviledges belonging to his Place, some years (I think I may say) before *Oates*'s Plot appear'd above-ground. It so fell out, in the beginning of the year 1681, (as I take it,) that *John Smith*, (commonly call'd *Narrative Smith*, but his real name is *David Barry*,) happen'd to Dine with *Elias Best* the *Hop-merchant* in *Thames-street*; He having Sons at *Merchant-Taylors-School*, desir'd *J. Smith* to examine how they benefitted in Learning: These Boys producing their Books, drew out the Ch. of *England*'s *Catechism* with a Comment upon it; in which Comment *Smith* positively avow'd there was plain *Popery* upon our B. Saviour's descent into Hell. This formidable *Spectrum* of *Popery* thus opportunely conjur'd up by *Smith* the *Renegado Priest*; the *True Prot. Elias* manag'd so effectually, that *Bushel*, *Mallery*, *Keys*, *Delves*, and other Fanatical Members of *Merchants Taylors* Company, caus'd Dr. *Goad* to be summon'd to the Hall to answer for his Comment; which he undertook, and unhappily did it under his Hand, which was the only thing they wanted. Next, they consulted their Oracles, *Otes*, *Ferguson*, and Dr. *Owen* the *Independant*; The first to *Swear*, and the latter to Evict the *Popery* of the Comment, and its Defence.

Notwithstanding during the time that this Affair was transacted, I was very intimate with *Oates*, yet he cautiously conceal'd it from me, knowing I would endeavour to prevent it, having so great a Veneration for Dr. *Goad*, He being the best Friend I ever found; However he had before often tamper'd with me to have accused the Dr. of being a *Papist*; which, neither knowing, or Believing him so, I refus'd to do, telling *Oates*, that it would be the greatest piece of Ingratitude imaginable in Him to attempt any such thing; To which he would always answer, I did not spare You who were my Mr. too, and therefore why should I spare Him? And for this aversion of mine, I was then wholly kept a stranger to their projects against him, till they had fully done their work.

But to give you the full account of this Comment, and the Dr's. Ruine that attended it; The matter of Fact is as follows. Upon a fit of Sickness that the Dr. lay under, the conduct of his School was wholly left to the Ushers, who driving (as is well known) a great Trade in Selling Books to the Schollars, did at that time, for their own private Lucre, Introduce this Comment upon the Church-*Catechism* into the School; which was so far from being *Popish*, that it was both Licens'd, and Dedicated to the then Arch-bishop of *Canterbury*. Now tho' the Dr. did very honestly in defending it, it was more than he was oblig'd to do, because it was brought into the School without his knowledge; The Fault (if any had been,) lying only at the Ushers dores, who, by the Custom of that School ought first to have consulted the Dr. (which they never did,) and to have had his approbation, this Book being for the lower Formes only; The *Catechism* used in the Fifth and Sixth Formes under the Dr's. more immediate Care, being only in *Greek*, without any Comment at all.

Now, though the Dr. did give his Enemies the above-nam'd advantage againſt him, by getting it under his Hand; and for That only reaſon, (this being the only quarrel againſt him,) they depriv'd him of his School, and utterly blaſted his Name and Reputation to the world, as a down-right *Papiſt*, yet That whole Tenent on which they grounded their pretended *Popery*, was expreſly a particular Doctrine of the Ch. of *England*, the deſcent of our Saviour into Hell being a ſpecial Article, even of our very Apoſtles *Creed*. But forſooth, becauſe ſeveral Fanaticks diſſent from Us in that Point of our Belief, thoſe very perſons were ſet up for Judges in the Cauſe, and even a Defence of our Ch. of *England* (the Dr's. Defence of the Comment being no other,) Arraign'd, Convicted, and Condemn'd as *Popiſh* and *Antichriſtian*, by the Sentence and Decree of *Oates*, *Ferguſon*, *Owen*, &c. together with the Aſſent of *Buſhel*, *Mallary*, *Keys*, and the reſt of the Lay Brethren in *Inquiſition* aſſembled.

Why the reforming Zeal of Dr. *Owen* was ſo active in Dr. *Goad's* Ruin, was, for the introduction of his Siſters Son Mr. *Harcliff*, into his place; a Perſon undoubtedly not unworthy of the Preferment, for having once Heroically attempted to Preach before His late Majeſty, and not being able to utter one word of his Sermon, he deſcended from the Pulpit as great an *Orator* as he went up, Treating His Majeſty with no other Entertainment than a ſilent Meeting.

But to give you the farther management of this Affair, paſſing by all the Injuſtice done to Dr. *Goad*, here was a violation of the Cuſtom of the School in introducing this Mr. It being agreed *ab Origine*, between Famous Sir *Thomas White*, *Merchant Taylor*, and Founder of St. *Johns Colledge* in *Oxford*, and the Company of *Merchant Taylors*, that the Mr. of that School ſhould always be a Member of that *Colledge*, which this man was not, being an *Eaton* Scholar, and conſequently of *Cambridge*.

Now their reaſon for this illegal Election of a *School-maſter*, the Then over-ruling Factious Party of the *Merchant-Taylors*, (though offer'd an able Man by the *Colledge*) ſuſpended this Cuſtom, pretending That the *Colledge* of St. *Johns* would ſend none but Perſons that would propagate *Popery*; ſo that here's the Gown men of a whole Colledge at one ſtroke branded with *Popery* by theſe Infallible *Mechanick Furs*.

About the time of this Buſineſs of Dr. *Goads*, *Nat. Thompſon* had Publiſh'd in his *News-Book* the Apprentices intent of burning the *Rump*, which being no ſooner view'd with a pair of *Whig-Spectacles*, but it was turn'd to a *Popiſh Plot*, and to be manag'd by Sir *W. Waller*; In order to which, he attempted to get a Warrant from the Privy Councel for *Thompſon*; But That Project failing, he decoy'd him in another perſons Name without *Temple-Bar*, and there by his own Warrant charg'd him with *High Treaſon*, and committing him to the *Gate-houſe*; The next day Sir *Will.* made it his whole buſineſs to boaſt what great Service he had done to the *Cauſe* in ſecuring Him; further telling me, that *Thompſon* had ſaid, and done ſuch things that did amount to *Treaſon*, and he did not doubt but to Hang him. But as Providence order'd it, in few days after Sir *Will.* was fairly diſmiſt of his Juſtice-ſhip, and conſequently made incapable of Plund'ring any more: Upon which he ſtept for *Holland*, and there turn'd his Plunder'd Relicks, *&c.* into Gold, to the value of 6 or 700 *l.*

One Slander more they caſt upon me, was, that I writ Seditions Pamphlets for *Oates*; Truly I will not wrong him, he never deſir'd any ſuch thing of me; Indeed he promis'd me 20 *l. per annum*, and Dyet, to Tranſlate certain Books in Latine concerning the Inſtitutions, Rules and Orders of the Jeſuits; Some of which I put into *Engliſh*, and have part of them yet by me; all which, if Printed, would no ways prejudice Jeſuits, or other perſons, but be uſeful to many curious men. Now for all my pains *Oates* never paid me one Peny, though he punctually ſatisfy'd *John Philips* for writing the many Lies and Villanies that even yet remain under his Name on every Fanatical Bookſellers Stall. Many other wrongs I have long labour'd under, which I believe, if known, would draw compaſſion from my greateſt Enemies; But thoſe having no relation to the Publick, ſhall be now conceal'd.

ERRATA.

PAge 4. *l.* 35. *r.* Bobbing *in* Kent. *p.* 7. *l.* 19. *r* October. *p.* 8. *l. ult. r.* Plot. *p.* 17. *l.* 11. *r. Mr.* Clare, *Bareſter.* *p.* 19. *for* 13 d. *r.* 18 d. *a Week.* *p.* 21. *l.* 36. *for* queſtion *r.* mention. *p.* 33. *l.* 24. *r.* this Comment.

INTRIGUES
OF THE
POPISH PLOT, &c.

I Intend not with a long preamble to trouble the Reader, or to wheedle ignorant unthinking Fops, or malicious ill natur'd Hypocrites into a good Opinion of me; the cenſure or approbation of both theſe, I neither dread nor value: it is before the Charitable, Vertuous, and Judicious perſon I will arraign my ſelf; and waving all excuſes, diſcloſe what I know, and then clear my ſelf ſo far as the ſubject will bear, and my ability will extend without Rhetorical flouriſhes; endeavouring to bring my Matter to Words, and not Words to my Matter.

I lived (after I was burnt out of *Merchant Taylors* School) at *Iſlington* Twelve Years, where the Company of *Brewers* were my Patrons; who ſtill ſhew'd ſuch favour to me, as I never requeſted any kindneſs of them they ever denyed me; and even in my greateſt extremity certified for me under their Hands (as ſhall appear afterwards;) neither even to this day, did they eject me: And the Neighbourhood, conſiſting moſtly of Ale-men, Cow-men, or Hog-men, I believe never injur'd or defamed me, or will to this hour.

Two or Three Years after I was at *Iſlington* came ſeveral Perſons thither and to *Clerkenwell*, who ſet up Schools without Licenſes, and were backed by two Vicars, which was injurious to the Publick School, and directly againſt the Canon. I could get little or no remedy againſt them; the reaſon I ſhall rather think, than expreſs. Two of theſe were Mr. *Robert Ferguſon* (a Man ſince well known for his Treaſons) and Mr. *Thomas Singleton*, who is there at this time. One of *Ferguſon's* Boarders dying, I think of the Small Pox, the Vicar buried, or permitted to be buried, without a Word of the *Liturgy*, even in his Church. And to the latter of theſe Worthies, the other Vicar, ſent his only Son to be inſtructed, as he himſelf had been at the feet of ſuch another *Gamaliel*.

Notwithſtanding I ſuffered much, Teaching the Poor Children for a very ſmall Salary, and theſe two Diſſenters canting the Rich to themſelves, I bore all patiently: and perſever'd to diſcharge my duty juſtly and honeſtly, and rubb'd on, doing all the good I could, but harm to no body; which has been, and is a great comfort to me; yet though I believe I can make Panegyricks upon others, I am unskill'd in making one upon my ſelf: Therefore I deſiſt.

The firſt time I ſaw *Titus Oates*, after he went from *Merchant-Taylor's* School, where he was my Scholar, in the year 1665, was about *Bartholomew*-tide 1676. He was brought to me by Mr. *Matthew Medburne* (who had pick'd him up in the Earl of *Suffolk's* Cellar at *Whitehall* that day they came to me) undoubtedly under a fatal Poſition of the Heavens. *Titus* was in his Canonical Garments: I knew him not, till he told me who he was. To the *Sun-Tavern* in *Alderſgate-ſtreet* they had me. Truly *I* was very melancholy, though *I* knew no cauſe for it. May be it pleaſed the Almighty Providence, in that little prelude to give me ſome forebodings of the miſeries that were ordained me from this unfortunate renewing of our old acquaintance.

After this, *Matthew Medburne* introduced *Oates* into a Club that met at the *Pheaſant* in *Fuller's Rents*, at that time kept by one Mr. *Mekins*, conſiſting of ſeveral perſons, ſome *Roman Catholicks* and ſome *Proteſtants*; where *I* never heard any Diſputes about Religion or State Affairs, it being a particular Article of our Club, that all ſuch Diſcourſes ſhould be forbidden upon the penalty of Six pence forfeit for every default of that nature by any Member of the Society.

I had almoſt forgotten to tell the Reader, That before *Medburne* found him at *Whitehall*, and brought him into our Society, he had been ſilenced by the Arch-Deacon of *Canterbury*, whom afterwards he indeavoured to have brought into his Plot, as he will juſtifie for me, having very hardly eſcaped his ſnares, all honeſt and good Men being ever the greateſt mark of his malice. Upon this ſilencing having loſt his Vicaridge of *Robbing* in *Kent*, (where, amongſt many other notorious exclamations againſt him, he was remarkable for petty Thefts, his Neighbours Pigs and Hens never eſcaping his Rapacious Clutches) and alſo his Faculty from the late Earl Marſhal, then Earl of *Norwich*, being taken from him, he began to rail againſt the Church of *England*; intending thereby to wind himſelf into the good opinion of the *Roman Catholicks*, which indeed made his

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his converſation the more acceptable to *Matthew Medburne*, as being a zealous Romaniſt.

By this means he ingratiated himſelf to *Medburne*, profeſſing himſelf a convert to the Church of *Rome*, and by him was, as aforeſaid, introduced into our Club, his Principles and himſelf being wholly ſtrangers to the reſt of the company. And truly, for my part, I had that very indifferent Opinion of him, That I ſometimes adviſed *Medburne* not to repoſe any confidence in him, remembring his perverſe and wicked pranks, when he was a School Boy; which, indeed, was all I knew of him then: for his Suſpenſion and Miſdemeanors in *Suſſex* and *Kent* were then unknown to us both.

All this while he continued in the habit of a Church of *England* Man; and coming one day to ſee me at *Iſlington*, after we had dined, we intended to go into *London* to meet *Medburne*: But in our way, paſſing by *Sadler*'s Muſick-Houſe we met Dr. *Slater*, the Vicar of *Clerkenwell*, who complemented his ſeeming Brother Clergy-man very gravely, and deſired him to except of a Glaſs of Ale with him, upon which, growing more familiar, he deſired him to give him a Sermon next *Sunday*, which *Oates* after much entreaty promiſed. But I took the Dr. aſide, and beſought him not to except of it, for ſome private Reaſons I knew, which I did not particularize to him. But he thinking it might be only an Excuſe, reſolved to accept *Oates*'s proffer, and accordingly *Oates* preach'd; and in his Sermon ſpeaking all along very bitterly againſt *Calvin*, he call'd him always *Jack*. This Sermon gave very heinous offence to Two great admirers of *Calvin*, Mr. *Barker*, and Mr. *Walſh*, then in Commiſſion of the Peace. Who therefore ſending for the Dr. gave him a very ſevere Reprimand, for ſuffering ſuch a Fellow to appear in his Pulpit. The Dr. to excuſe himſelf, acquainted their Worſhips, 'Twas I that introduced him; which ſtory, though falſe, proved very prejudicial to me, theſe perſons being my utter Enemies ever after. This Sermon, by the by, after *Oates*'s Exaltation, and Renown of being a Diſcoverer, for the credit of the Author, was ſold by him to Mr. *Sawbridge* for 40 or 50 Guineas; but anſwered not expectation, for no other fault but the Satyr againſt their darling *Calvin* in it; which indeed was no ſmall crime in that ſeaſon; and for which, had not his other Vertues atoned, might have proved very injurious, not only to his Narrative, but, alſo, his Reputation too, amongſt his greateſt Friends and ſupporters, the Phanaticks.

Soon after this, *Oates* caſt off his Habit, and put himſelf into a Campagne Coat and a Sword; and being entertain'd by the Jeſuites, he was by them ſent into *Spain*, where they were ſoon weary of him, and remitted him to *England*; where applying himſelf again to the Jeſuites, eſpecially to Father *Whitebread* (whom afterwads he ſo fairly requited) by his Intereſt he was ſent over to St. *Omers*.

From thence returning in the year 78, he ſculckt about the Town in a Secular Habit, and came to viſit me as formerly; being very intimate alſo, as before, with *Medburne*, who was inſtrumental in obtaining him ſome aſſiſtance for his relief from perſons of Quality of the *Romiſh* Religion. This Familiarity continuing between us, one thing was remarkable, That about that time that we had an account of the Battel of *Mons*, he met *Medburne*, and Mr. *Thomas Hughes* (who is now living, and a Member of the Church of *England*, and ready to atteſt it) and complaining of his extreme neceſſity, he told them, He had not eaten a bit of Bread in Three Days; upon which, they carryed him into the *Cock* in the *Hay-market*, and made him Eat and Drink, giving him alſo ſome Money, notwithſtanding this was the very time, when in his Diſcovery after he was in the height of his pretended Plot, and daily intereſted and engaged with ſo many perſons of ſuch great Quality to carry on the Cauſe of *Rome*.

From the middle of *July* till the latter end of *Auguſt* I ſaw him not, and the firſt week of *September* *Medburne* and *John Philips* brought him to me at *Iſlington*: we went to the *Catherine-Wheel*, where we drank a Bottle or two of Claret, and my Boy brought me ſome new Acts of Parliament, then newly publiſh'd. Upon reading of them there happned a very great Debate between *Medburne* and *Titus Oates*, concerning the Three Eſtates; *Titus* affirming, the King to be one of the Three Eſtates, and anſwerable to the other Two which he called the Lords and Commons. *Medburne* contradicted him, and told him he lied; inſomuch that they grew to very hard words; *Philips* juſtifying *Oates*, and I *Medburne*: I ſhowing my reaſon in the preamble of one of the Acts, wherein 'twas expreſt; *Be it Enacted by the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, with the Conſent and Adviſe of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons Aſſembled in Parliament*, &c. urging, That if the King had been One of the Three Eſtates it would have run thus, Enacted by the King, Lords and Commons, *&c.* Here tis obſerva-

ble

ble, The very time when *Oates* was juſt upon Diſcovering a Plot in Zeal for the Preſervation of His Majeſties Life, he was nevertheleſs talking Treaſon againſt his Prerogative.

In ſome few days after this, he came to me again in the Evening, and deſired me, with all intreaties imaginable, to write him a Paper of Verſes, in *Latin*, upon our Bleſſed Saviour and the Virgin *Mary*, which he intended, as he ſaid, to carry to the Jeſuites as his own, to demonſtrate his Learning, and try if thereby they would re-entertain him, or get him into ſome Catholick Family, where he might teach ſome Children, he being then totally deſtitute of any livelihood. The Verſes I made for him, and he fetch'd them the next morning, forcing upon me, as a gift, a pair of Tweezers, which he ſaid he brought out of *Flanders*. He particularly deſired me, in the afore-named Verſes, to make a long harangue in the praiſe of the Virgin *Mary*, pretending it would very much pleaſe the Jeſuites. But truly I thought not fit to do ſo, and omitted it.

The next, and laſt time he came to me was on a *Saturday*, ſome few days after in *September*: on a *Saturday* which happen'd to be the day before the great noiſe of the Popiſh Plot broke out; and *I* invited him to the *Katherine-Wheel*, where he pull'd out a handful of money, which ſeem'd to be about 30 or 40 ſhillings, offering me the acceptance of it, in return of the many Reckonings *I* had paid for him, and the Treats *I* had made him; but *I* refuſed it. Then he ask'd me if *I* had heard any thing of a Plot: *I* told him, No: upon which, he ſaid, There had been great complaints at *Whitehall* about a Plot of the Jeſuites, againſt the King. He promiſed to come and Dine with me next day, but *I* ſaw him no more till the Firſt day of *November*, when he appear'd at the Lords Bar, and ſwore falſely againſt me. The reaſon why *I* mention theſe two paſſages is this: He told me, after *I* was got into his favour, That he came both thoſe times to me to trapan me. This *I* avoided by the great mercy of God, not my own Prudence, *I* being always too credulous and eaſie to be impoſed upon; never laying Snares for any Man, and thinking no body would lay any for me. *If I* had writ what he deſired me of the Bleſſed Virgin, he had made me under my own hand a Papiſt. *If I* had taken his money he had ſwore me into his Plot: yet *I* was brought into the Bryars for all this.

Oates in the interim had given into the Council, Depoſitions of his Plot, wherein he gave in my Name for meeting at a Club

a Club in *Fuller's Rents*. Hereupon the Lord Biſhop of *London* ſent for me to the Veſtry in *Iſlington* Church. His Lordſhip ask'd me, How I happn'd to be concern'd in ſuch a Club. I replied, I never had any ill intent in going thither, neither ever ſaw, or heard any bad Action or Diſcourſe in the Company; one reaſon that cauſed me to be there now and then, was this; The perſon that kept the Houſe was a Gentleman fallen to decay; having many Children: This being his laſt ſhift, I conceiv'd it to be a ſort of Charity, when I could ſpare a ſix pence to ſpend it with him, rather than another; eſpecially having the Society of ingenuous Men. His Children likewiſe I taught, and was not paid, nor ever expected I ſhould: Nor am I to this day. His Lordſhip ſeemed to be ſatisfied. It was then urged againſt me, by a Doctor there preſent, That *I* kept company with one *Medburne* a Player, who was a rank Papiſt; intimating thence, that *I* muſt be ſo too; and blundering out the old bald Verſe, *Noſcitur a Socio qui non dignoſcitur a ſe*: I replied, *I* reckoned it no crime to keep company with a Man, to whom *I* had ſeen the greateſt Men in the Kingdom ſpeak kindly; and amongſt others his Lordſhips Brother, the Earl of *Northampton*; but if that matter gave offence, *I* would forbear his company. His Lordſhip ask'd me, If I Catechized the Children: *I* aſſured his Lordſhip, That *I* had not one in the School but had his Catechiſm as perfect as *A*, *b*, *c*; yet thoſe two Doctors, my Neighbours, had never Catechized ſince I came thither, which was then Twelve Years. His Lordſhip was diſpleaſed at it; however all things were patch'd up for that time.

About that time Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey* was found dead in a Ditch, near *Primroſe Hill*, and the main cry was, That the Papiſts had murder'd him. This buſineſs happen'd well for *Oates*, as he afterwards often told me: He would uſually ſay, *I belive not a Word on't*; *but my Plot had come to nothing without it*; *It made well for me*; *I believe the Council would never have taken any farther notice of me elſe*, *if he had not been found*: *He was a Cowardly Raſcal*, *for when I went with my Depoſitions to him*, *he was ſo frighted*, *that I believe he beſhit himſelf*; *for there was ſuch a ſtink I could hardly ſtay in the Room.* This Character he would frequently give of that their pretended Protomartyr to Popery; and the very perſon, whoſe misfortune, even by his own confeſſion, was the very ſupport of his Pocket.

Notwithſtanding

Notwithstanding this made well for *Otes*, and his future Colegue, *Bedloe*, it turn'd to a scurvy account for many honest Men, and put the unthinking Rabble into such a rage, that most of Mankind, except *Phanaticks*, were accounted *Papists*; of which number, I was soon adopted a Member. And a certain Worthy and Learned Vicar sent up and down his Parish, for Witnesses, to make out I was such, or something worse: At length, he found Two Men, as honest as himself, to swear a blind sort of Treason against me; The One formerly a Gold-finder, and one of *Cromwel*'s Jannizaries; the Other a Miscreant, that has scarce been in a Church since he was Christen'd. These Hell-hounds, accompanied with the Noble Vicar, took their way into *Aldersgate*-Street, and proffer'd to swear against me before the Lord Bishop of *London*; who generously did refuse to meddle in the Affair. Thus repulsed, they applied themselves, in all Humility, to *Otes*, the *Saviour of the Nation*, (whom the Vicar had accustomed to mention kindly in a long, swinging thing, he calls a *Prayer*) and, after Three low Reverences, unfolded their Supplications to him in words to this Effect: "That *William Smith*, "the School-Master of *Islington*, had spoken Treason against his "Majesty; that they were ready to aver it: But, he being a "Person of greater Authority, it would be much better for him "to swear, than for them. (This I had from *Otes*'s own Mouth.) *Otes* readily accepted the Offer; though he knew no more than the Man in the *Moon*, any thing of the matter, but what they told him. Now, --- *Actum est de vitâ & sanguine Turni*; *Otes* with great diligence procures a Warrant from some Peers, (whose Names I forbear) to Apprehend me, and bring me before the *House of Lords*. This Warrant and Work was recommended to one *Sarracoal*, a flagitious and profligate Rascal: He, with about twenty Villains of his own Gang, (who, I believe, would have murder'd me, had it not been for thirty Souldiers, which, with an Officer of the Guards, attended them) came about One of the Clock in the Night, and, without knocking, broke open my outward Door, the other being open to them. They rifled my House, frighted a Child of about Five Years I had, that he dyed soon after. I was carried by these Persons into *Black Spread-Eagle-Court* in the *Strand*, over against *Somerset*-House, to one Mr. *Tomson*'s. This House the Varlet *Sarracoal* had seized upon, and converted into a kind of Goal. There was I confin'd in a little Room, in which I believe, Forty or Fifty smoaked; and, though I smoak't my self, I was almost smother'd. Before Morning, *Sar-*

racoal brought in ſeveral Perſons more: And in the Morning, this impudent Fellow march't us one by one, between two Muſquetteers, to *Weſtminſter*; and into the Painted-Chamber he brought us; where we were placed upon the Forms, and made a publick Spectacle.

Now a Porter with a Note in his Hand, would have been enough to have commanded me before the *Houſe of Lords*: But the Children of *Edom*, who managed ſuch like Deſigns in thoſe Days of Wickedneſs, knew very well, that their Conſpiracy would ſoon fall to the Ground, unleſs kept up by needleſs Noiſe, Clamours, Tumults, Fears, Jealouſies, Shamms, and abominable Lies.

After about an Hour's ſpace, we were all brought into the *Houſe of Lords* by Sir *George Charnock*, then the Serjeant at Arms attending the *Houſe*. After we had kneeled ſometime, the Lord Chancellor bade us riſe: And in comes *Otes* very gravely, habited in his Canonical Veſtments. He having ſworn very profoundly againſt two or three, my Turn came. The Lord Chancellor ask't him, What he had to ſay againſt me? *Otes* pretended much Modeſty, replying, *He was aſhamed to declare the Words I had ſpoken of the King*. After a ſeeming reluctancy, he ſwore, *That I, in Company, refuſing to drink the King's Health, wiſhed the King's B----- in a cleft Stick*. His Majeſty was then preſent ſitting amongſt the *Barons*, near the *Barr*: And being pleaſed to ſmile at this ridiculous Story, I could hear him ſay, *I believe, he would drink my Health*. I humbly requeſted the Chancellor, that I might ſpeak. His Lordſhip told me, I might ſpeak what I would. I then beſought his Lordſhip, to ask *Otes*, Where and when I ſpake theſe Words, and if he heard me? My Lord reminding him, that he was upon his Oath, exactly put theſe Three Queſtions to him. To the *Firſt*, *Otes* anſwer'd, He knew not where the Words were ſpoken: To the *Second*, He believed, it was ſome Years ago. To the *Third*, That he did not hear me ſpeak them, but he could produce thoſe that did hear me. After Leave to ſpeak, I ſaid thus to the *Lords*: *My Lords, I am very certain, I never ſpake any ſuch Words in all my Life; for never any ſuch wicked Thought enter'd into my Heart: And if I miſtruſted, that my Tongue did, or ever would utter ſuch vile Words concerning my King, I would my ſelf here cut it out, and caſt it down at your Lordſhip's Barr: And as to the King's Health, I am ſure, I never deny'd it.* I then made my humble Requeſt to my Lord Chancellor, to ask *Otes*, If I was in the *Plot*, or a *Papiſt*? *Otes* anſwer'd to both in the Negative.

Then

Then he proceeded to ſwear againſt one Mr. *Preſton*; declaring he was a *Romiſh Prieſt*, and his Confeſſor. This Mr. *Preſton* was known to be ſo deaf, that he could ſcarce hear, when he was whoop't and hollow'd to; ſo that *Otes* and his Confeſſor muſt have choſe *Salisbury*-Plain for their Chappel, unleſs they had a mind all People ſhould hear them: Yet Mr. *Preſton* upon this Oath lay in *Newgate* two or three Years. Well, we were order'd all to withdraw, and re-placed upon the Benches, in the Painted-Chamber, in worſe condition than before; for now we had a Souldier planted betwixt each of us. In an hour's time, the *Lords* Adjourned till Four in the Afternoon; and Sir *Edward Carteret*, the Black Rod, came to us with a Paper in his Hand, importing our Doom: Some were order'd to the *Gate-houſe*; ſome to *Newgate*; ſome diſcharg'd: I was left among the Souldiers, whom the Black Rod diſcharged; telling me, I was his Priſoner. He recommended me to one *Button*, a Meſſenger, and charged him to treat me civilly; which truly he did. This was on *Fryday* the Firſt Day of *November*, 1678. And notwithſtanding Mr. *Latimer*, and Mr. *Hughes* (whom with Gratitude I here mention) proffer'd to be bound Body for Body in my behalf, I was kept in Cuſtody; ſo ſtrong was the Ferment of that Seaſon. In the Afternoon, Dr. *Dean*, and Mr. *Wells* a Miniſter, viſited me; and next Morning, Mr. *Gadbury* and Major *Fiſher* came to me: And theſe were all the Friends I ſaw in this unhappy Juncture.

All things were in a moſt violent hurry; and I was in ſuch a great Conſternation, that I knew not which way to turn my ſelf, or what to do. Between Seven and Eight at Night, out came my Lord *Shaftsbury*, in a great Cloak, to warm himſelf at a Fire in the with-drawing Green-Lobby: By the Meſſenger's Perſwaſion, I followed him. I told his Lordſhip, *I was clearly Innocent of what* Otes *had ſworn againſt me in the Morning; and I hop'd, his Lordſhip, out of Pity and Commiſeration, would ſtand my Friend.* He told me, *He would not ſpeak for any one, nor be a Friend to any one, that ſpoke againſt the King.* I replyed, *His Lordſhip was too Wiſe, to believe all Reports to be true.* *No,* (ſays he) *I believe not all Reports to be true; and I think, what was ſpoke of thee in the Morning, was an idle Story: But I have this Afternoon an Account of thee from Dr.* Tonge *and Mr.* Ferguſon, *Men that know thee, as well as thou knoweſt thy ſelf, which will prove of dangerous Conſequence to thee.* I deſired his Lordſhip to let me know, what dangerous things they had inform'd againſt me? He told me, *I had made a Practice of talking for,*

and

and defending the Church of Rome, *in every Place where I came, which was Treason.* I humbly did beseech him again, to stand my Friend. He reply'd; *If thy Friends can get thee out of these Bryars, Wilt thou be an honest Man?* I told him, *Yes, I would to my Power.* I then told him again, I could justify my self against that which *Otes* had sworn. *But,* (says he) *if thou goest about to justify thy self, thou'lt be utterly lost; for thy Friends had very much ado to keep the House from sending for those Two Persons* Otes *mention'd: Petition therefore the Lords, to be discharg'd.* And so he left me, promising he would assist me the best he could; which I believe, he did. I shall make a short Observation upon this Dialogue.

I had not, to my Knowledge, ever before that Day seen *Tonge*; and with *Ferguson* I had never been in Company, save once; and I'm sure, we talk't nothing of the Church of *Rome*: So that, I believe, these Men were then as busie to bring People into the *Plot*, as *Otes*; and doubtless, were as deeply concern'd. It may be consider'd likewise, that I then was intended for the future Work, because I was to be, in his Lordship's Sense, an *Honest Man*; A term of Art I have had cause to understand the meaning of very well, since. Thus, instead of getting out of the Bryars, I got much faster in.

I had not stay'd so long, as the Reading this Digression, in the Lobby, but a Prelate repair'd thither to warm himself, as I imagine: I made my Address, as well as I could, to him for his Help and Assistance: It seems, Dr. *Tonge* was this Prelate's great Confident; which, I presume, made me fare the worse. The Prelate told me plainly; *That I, having kept company with so many Papists, and perhaps one my self, must needs either be in the Plot, or know something of it; and that it would be best for me to deal freely with the Lords, they having been so kind to me, as not to commit me to Prison; I might imagine, they meant not to ruin me, but only to make me an Honest Man.* I protested, by all that is Sacred, I knew nothing of any Plot. Here I cannot but remark, that this Prelate was much severer than the Lord *Shaftsbury*; for now I was a *Papist*, and a *Plotter*; notwithstanding the very Oracle, *Titus* himself, had upon Oath clear'd me from being either of them, and that but just before, in his *Lordship's* Hearing.

This Good Man had certainly read all the *Major* and *Minor Prophets*, together with the Book of *Revelations*, with incomparable Judgment, and singular Advantage to himself, else he could never have known more of me, than I knew of my self; and that I must be undone, before I could be made an *Honest Man*.

This

This was a ſharp uſe of an Evening Conſolation, and more ſevere than *Otes*'s Morning-Lecture.

Saturday came, and I Petition'd the *Houſe* to be diſcharged; my Petition was read, an Order being made to this effect; *That my Licenſe for teaching School was to be taken from me, and that I was to give an Account of what I could, that might deſerve the Favor of the Houſe.*

In the mean time, my old Friend, the Vicar afore-mentioned, was not idle; he being all this while as ſtrenuous and ſedulous to take away my Livelihood, as others were to take away my Life: He, I ſay, together with a broken Brewer, introduced one *Clutterbuck* (a Parſon's Son) into my Houſe and Imployment, without any Order from the Company of *Brewers*, who are the Patrons; they being of a different Opinion, as this following Certificate, given at that time, will evince:

We the Maſter, Wardens and Aſſiſtants of the Company of Brewers, London, **Governours of the Lady** Owen's **Free-School at** Iſlington, **whereof** William Smith, **Maſter of Arts, hath been for Twelve years School-Maſter, who now is ſuſpended from his ſaid Imployment; Do, on the behalf of the ſaid** William Smith, **humbly Certify, That he was an Induſtrious and Careful Perſon in his Place; and is a very Loyal Subject to his Sacred Majeſty and Government, for any thing we know to the contrary.**

James Reading, Maſter.		*Ralph Bowes*,	Aſſiſtants.
Joſeph Lawrence,	Wardens.	*Richard Hammond*,	
Thomas Morton,		*Jo. Raymond*,	
William Courtis,		*David Knight*,	

Now the Vicar had atchieved his Deſign; namely, he had got me faſt enough, and almoſt in as ready a Road to the Gallows, as Mr. *Staley*: He had put the afore-ſaid *Clutterbuck* into my Place; yet he ceaſed not to perſecute me ſtill: Trudging to *Brewer's-Hall* to ſay Grace, and repleniſh his Guts, he there

moſt falſly beſpatter'd me in a Fuſtian-Harangue after Dinner; having not leiſure, I ſuppoſe, till he had filled his Belly, to rail againſt, and abuſe the Innocent. Yet obſerve what came of all this: *Clutterbuck* has ſince ſpent his Patrimony, which was conſiderable, and ruin'd, by his illiterature and negligence, the *School*, with his own Reputation; and even flown in the Face of his Promoter and Patron, the Vicar.

On *Saturday* in the Afternoon, I was Examin'd by a certain P----.He perſwaded me, That I was one of the *Black-Bill-Men*, or one of the *Dagger-Men* of *Drury-Lane*: This ſtruck me into a profound Amazement; I not having heard of any ſuch kind of Creature, till that very minute. But how unknown ſoever thoſe dreadful Names might be to my ſelf, certainly the Apparition muſt be not a little terrible, which even Gravity, Learning, and Wiſdom was ſo apprehenſive of. However, all I could offer to clear my ſelf from being either of the fore-mention'd dangerous Things, or any other ſort of guilty Perſon, it all avail'd me little: For now I was not only a *Papiſt*, but a *Plotter*, and a ſmall *Officer* into the Bargain. Really, I then believed my ſelf gone. In the *Interim*, ſuch ſpeedy Care was taken to ſend the *Lord*'s Order to *Doctor's-Commons*, as that Night, by the Exemplary Vigilance of Sir *Thomas Exton*, and his careful Regiſter, *Newcourt*, I received a Command, To deliver my Licenſe (which I had bought and paid for) to the Meſſenger, and not to teach School in the Dioceſs, or any where elſe.

My Licenſe thus taken from me, it was impoſſible, that I, under my Circumſtances, ſhould ever be ſo connived at, as to teach without One; as ſome others did then, and do ſo to this Day: Therefore I was, if not in Duty, yet in fear of the Statute, obliged to deſiſt; otherwiſe I might have proceeded in my School, for the Governours thereof never diſcharged me.

Here 'tis obſervable, that my whole Livelihood, and all I had in the World being thus taken from me, and that upon no other ground, than either the fore-mentioned unintelligible Treaſon, ſwore to by *Otes*, without either the *How*, *When*, and *Where* to it; or elſe, for my being ſuſpected one of the above-named *Dagger-*, or *Black-Bill-Men*: either of theſe *Chymæra's* having Influence enough

enough to undo me: Here was Ruin and Poverty laid on my back; but Two neceſſary Preparatives, to make me embrace that *Honeſty*, that was ſo requiſite to give my Lord *Shaftsbury* Satisfaction. A Blow of this kind being but too apt to make Men malleable to Purpoſes and Impreſſions, not ſo eaſily taken and received in Proſperity.

On *Monday*-Night following, the *Lords* diſcharged me; and in their very Order, as will appear by the *Journal of the Houſe of Lords*, they expreſs'd me a *Proteſtant*. Yet ſee, the Caprice of Fortune, and what Fatality attends the Unhappineſs of ſome Men! By this moſt Juſt and Generous Acquitment of their *Lordſhip's*, from the Imputation of *Popery*, and the Dangers thereunto belonging, I was re-inſtated into my former Innocence. Nevertheleſs, though by this Re-inſtatement, all my Daggering, Black-Billing, Treaſoning, and Plotting, wholly diſappeared; yet the Guilt vaniſh't, but the Puniſhment remain'd: For my Licenſe, and my School, were never reſtor'd me again, though the Phantom that took them from me, was diſſolved into Air.

Soon after this, *Otes* ſpoke to Major *Fiſher*, to find me out, and bring me to him, which the Major promiſed him to do; for indeed, the Major then lodg'd in the ſame Houſe with me, though he did not tell *Otes* ſo, as ſuſpecting it might be to my prejudice; becauſe *Otes* threatned, it ſhould be the worſe for me, if I came not. Conſidering this Menace, I attended my Lord Biſhop of *London*, and pray'd his Advice; who counſell'd me to go to *Otes*, but to be cautious of what I ſaid; and likewiſe, to have a Friend with me, to be Witneſs (if occaſion requir'd) of what paſt between us; and alſo, to attend his *Lordſhip* again, to give him an account of the Particulars: All which I perform'd; Mr. *Thomas Hughes* (before mentioned in this Diſcourſe) being the Friend I made choice of to go along with me.

We came to *White-hall*, and were permitted to ſpeak with *Otes*; whom we found in his Chamber, and Mr. *Thomas Smith*, a Counſellor of the *Temple*, with him. After we had talk't of ſome indifferent Things, *Otes* ask't me, What I knew of *Matthew Medburne*? (who was then in Priſon, and whom he had preferr'd to

be

be a Captain.) To which I answer'd, *I knew no ill of him.* Then he question'd me, If I had never heard him cry up the *French King*, and disparage and speak ill of the King of *England?* I reply'd; *That truly, I heard him often applaud and extol the French King; but I never heard him speak an ill Word against our King; but on the contrary, defend him to his Power against others, that spoke reflectingly of him.*

Then Counsellor *Smith* began to speak; and, in a long Harangue, told me to this effect: *That he believed, I was an Honest Man, and that I would do what Service I could to my King and Country, as became a Good Man, and Loyal Subject: And therefore, since it had pleas'd God to make Discovery of this Hellish Design and Conspiracy, if I had heard or known any thing done or said tending thereunto, I ought to disclose it. And therefore, he prest me very earnestly, to be frank with the Doctor, in my Knowledge and Conversation with* Medburne *and in the Questions made me by the Doctor, concerning him.* But to all this I still positively Answer'd him, *That I neither knew any thing at all of a Plot, or any thing against* Medburne. Then *Otes* desir'd me to step in with him into his Closet; where he privately told me, *That if I would appear against* Medburne, *he could procure an Order from the King to the Brewers, to re-instate me in my School*; which he promis'd to perform, upon the Condition afore-said. The Answer I made him, to excuse my self, was, *That the School would be little worth to me now, under my present Aspersions and Circumstances.* Upon this, he offer'd me his Power and Interest, in promising me any thing else I could find convenient; with reiterated Protestations of serving me, and Intreaties to accuse *Medburne*. All this I refused, with a Compliment, *That I would consider of it*: Upon which we return'd into the Chamber, to our Company again: And soon after, parted friendly.

This Interview was about *Christmas*, in the Year 1678. After which time I saw *Otes* no more, till *June* 1679. though he desired Major *Fisher*, who sometimes visited him, to tell me, He would have me call upon him: And the Reason why I was but a little while troubled with that Importunity from him, was, That Mr. *Medburne* soon after died in *Newgate*.

How-

However I cannot omit one divertive ſtory that intervened: *Oates* being exalted with his high Dignities and Great Name of, *The Saviour of the Nation*, wanted to know his Coat of Arms; and Major *Fiſher* ſometimes waiting on him, and being alſo skill'd in Herauldry, the Doctor communicated himſelf to the Major for his aſſiſtance herein. The Major, to favour ſo comical a Requeſt of the Doctor, conſulted with Mr. *Wright* and Mr. *Blackamore*, two Herauld-Painters, who readily embraced the ſearch into Records for the Honourable Original of ſo Illuſtrious a Perſonage as *Titus the Famous*; but after diligent and tedious Inquiry, it ſo fell out that *Titus Oates* was either the Firſt Hero of his Family, or the Heraulds had been unkind in not tranſmitting his Name and Arms to poſterity, for neither could be found. Our Diſcoverer, it ſeems, being like the Champion mentioned by *Silius Italicus*,

Aſt illi ſine Luce Genus, ſurdumque Parentum
Nomen——

Theſe men being unwilling nevertheleſs to defeat the Doctor's Honourable expectations, or that the Major ſhould loſe his Reward expected for this eminent piece of ſervice to him, found out a Coat which they believed no body now could claim, *viz a Chevron between three Croſſes Croſlet Fitchee.* Being the Atchievement of Sir *Otes Swinford*, Husband to the Lady *Katherine Swinford*, afterwards married to *John* of *Gaunt*, Duke of *Lancaſter.* This the Doctor believed, and joyfully received, and moſt Triumphantly Engraved it on all his Plate, and in a large Seal Ring, requiting the Major with 20 *s.* but into the Bargain obliged him to bring him his Pedegree, all which he would pay for; but that being as hard to be produced as one of his own Commiſſions, the Major's non-performance quite loſt the Doctor's favour.

But to return to our purpoſe. In *May* 1679. the Parliament then ſitting at *Weſtminſter*, I met one Mr. *Barrow*, ſince Prebendary of *Windſor*; we went into a Houſe to drink together; after ſome common diſcourſe, he began to tell me a long ſtory, how the *Saturday* laſt he had met the Biſhop of *Cheſter*'s Chaplain, who enquired of him concerning me: I asking him for what, and alſo telling him I knew not the man; He

made anſwer, That the Parliament being going to try the Lords in the *Tower*, I was wanted to prove *Oates*'s being in Town, for which end he told me the Chaplain had ſent for him to enquire me out. I was very much ſurprized at this, and reminding him of the great Troubles I had lately been in, which he very well knew, I deſired to be excuſed from any ſuch thing, as being mighty unwilling to be brought upon the Stage again. I confeſt indeed I very well remembred he had been with me ſeveral Times that laſt Summer, as indeed he had; but however I beſought him not to deſire any ſuch thing of me, expreſſing my great averſion thereunto; but he urged the great ſervice I ſhould do to the publick, and told me, I ſhould be highly gratified by the Parliament: Nevertheleſs I perſiſted in my Denyal, continuing to expreſs ſeveral reaſons for my diſlike in doing any ſuch thing; till at laſt he plainly told me he had order to bring me, and that if I would not go, he would ſend for a Conſtable, and I ſhould not ſtir from thence till he had ſent the Parliament word of me; in which finding him in earneſt, rather than be ſo compell'd, I thought it better to go quietly along with him; and to *Weſtminſter* we went, and coming to the Houſe of Lords, we ſent in to the Biſhop of *Cheſter*, but he being that day ill of the Gout, and not there, we ſent in to the Biſhop of *London*, who was pleaſed to come forth to us: we ſignified to his Lordſhip the intention of our coming, who was pleaſed to ſay, I did ill I had not told him of this thing before; to which I replied, I did not know there was any occaſion for my teſtifying any ſuch thing: My Lord was pleaſed to ſay, I had done well if I had come ſooner, there being teſtimony wanting in that point; but now the Papers concerning the Popiſh Plot being this morning carried down to the Houſe of Commons, the Lords would ſay nothing to me; we then deſired his Lordſhip to inſtruct us what we ſhould do, who order'd us to go to the Houſe of Commons, and ſend in a Note to Sir *Thomas Meers*, letting him know we came from his Lordſhip. But before we went, his Lordſhip gave me caution that I did nothing but what was juſt and honeſt, and that I ſhould no ways wrong my Conſcience. Accordingly we went, and coming into the Lobby, where the Crowd was great, after the Note was ſent in, I loſt Mr. *Barrow*, whom I then ſaw no more, but Sir *Thomas Meers* came out to me: I acquaint-

quainting him with the buſineſs, he required me to ſtay in that place till he went back into the Houſe, which he thought would ſoon adjourn, and return'd to me. I ſtaid a little while, and the Houſe adjourning, he came to me again, and told me I muſt go to the Secret Committee in *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, at Serjeant *Maynard*'s Houſe, about ſix a Clock at night, and in his Name enquire for Sir *Thomas Lee*: But, ſays he, I ſhall ſee him before then, and prepare him to ſend for you in preſently, when you come thither.

At ſix I went, where I found the Committee ſitting, where meeting Mr. *Baniſter* of *Grays-Inn*, who was order'd to be their Door-keeper; as a confiding man, and ſignifying my deſire of ſpeaking with Sir *Thomas Lee*, he went in, and Sir *Thomas* immediately came out, and told me I ſhould be preſently call'd in, which was done, and the door very carefully ſhut after me with two Locks, as I remember: Sir *Thomas Lee* ſat at the upper end of the Table, I ſuppoſe as Chairman, who made an Harangue, much ſuch another as Councellor *Smith* had done before, expreſſing the great Deliverance this Kingdom had received from the late Diſcovery, and how it was every mans duty to do all that lay in his power to be inſtrumental in ſerving the Nation and the Proteſtant Religion, &c. He required me to inform him what time *Oates* was with me the Summer before; I anſwered, ſeveral times about *Midſummer* and after, to the beſt of my Remembrance. Another of the Committee ask'd me if I did not ſee him in *April*, or the beginning of *May*; I told him I could not remember certainly: But they all preſt upon me that it muſt be in *April* or *May*; promiſing me, that if I would tell the Truth, they would endeavour with the King and Houſe of Lords, to have me reſtored to the place I loſt, or a better; urging withal, That if I would not tell the Truth, things would be worſe with me, and much more to that threatning purpoſe. I being apprehenſive of danger, and having already ſuffer'd too much, conſidering too I was not upon my Oath, I ventured to ſay that truly I thought it might be about *May*; which Sir *Thomas Lee* wrote down, and afterwards required me to ſubſcribe to; which I not ſuſpecting they would ever demand of me, was ſurprized into, and durſt not deny them. They enquired likewiſe where I lodged, and to find me again wrote down that too, which

I durſt

I durſt not deny likewiſe; fearing to be laid by the heels upon refuſal. Then they all ſaid we are now ready, and will acquaint the Houſe to morrow morning; and ſomething elſe they ſaid they would do with the Houſe of Lords, which I cannot particularly remember. When they had put down the place I lodged at, one of them ſtood up and ſaid, *We ſhall have all the Rogues out of every hole and corner by degrees*; which not a little troubled me (though now too late) to think how they had drawn me in, and before I went out of the Room with what a courſe appellation they treated the tool they had made. However at parting they returned me thanks, and promis'd me alſo the whole Houſe of Commons would thank me too, and ſo with much Civility, and many good words, diſmiſt me.

But the Commons ſoon afterwards falling upon the Succeſſion, the Parliament was Diſſolved in ſome few days after. Upon which I heard no more of this buſineſs, and indeed expected to hear no more on't. But in *June* I coming late home one night, found a *Subpœna* for me to appear at the *Old-Baily* by 8 a clock next morning; the *Subpœna* imported a Cauſe depending between the King and *Thomas Whitebread*, whom I do declare in the preſence of God, I did not then know what or who he was, for tho all the Town at that time was full of no other diſcourſe than of the *Jeſuites* in *Newgate*, and other *Popiſh* Criminals; yet their Names I never troubled my ſelf to enquire into, being then very melancholy under my long Adverſity, and ſcarce daring to ſhew my head abroad. Now to ſhew the oddneſs of the circumſtances that ſurprized me in this thing, I was found out at my Lodgings by the Paper Sir *Thomas Lee* had made me ſign. Neither ſhould they have done this, had I had the leaſt ſuſpicion that I ſhould have been Subpœna'd in this cauſe; for when I appear'd before the Committee, their pretenſions were wholly of uſing me in the Tryal of the Lords; which the Parliaments Diſſolution made me conclude was now over, and therefore not in the leaſt imagining I ſhould have been call'd upon in this Caſe at the *Old-Baily*, I had not provided me any other Lodgings, or ſought any concealment or preventions againſt it.

To the *Old-Baily* accordingly in the morning I went, and coming to the door, I ſpoke to an Officer, and ſhow'd him my *Subpœna*, not then knowing what I was ſummon'd thither for, by

by reaſon I came home late the night before, and this was the firſt enquiry I made, for the Fellow that brought the *Subpœna* ſtaying till 11 a clock at night for me at my Lodgings, and not finding me come in, left it with ſtrict orders with my Landlord to deliver it me; and being asked what it concerned, he would give him no account of that, but in general terms told him it was buſineſs of great conſequence, and ſo repeated his ſtrict charge of not failing the Delivery of it, and ſending me next morning accordingly; The Officer made me no other anſwer, than that I muſt go to the *Fountain Tavern* at *Snow-hill*; where coming, I found the two *Oates*'s, Father and Son, (that being the firſt time that I had ever ſeen the Father) together with Councellour *Smith*, and many other perſons, ſtrangers to me. This likewiſe was the firſt time (as before-mentioned) that I had ſeen *Oates* from about *Chriſtmas* before. After a Glaſs or two of VVine drank to me, and ſome other uſual Civilities paſt, the two *Oates* and Councellor *Smith* retired, and in ſome minutes after ſent a Meſſenger to tell me there was one would ſpeak with me in another room; whereupon I went out, and found it was they: They had likewiſe a Bottle of VVine there, and after ſome further Civilities, Councellor *Smith* began to ſpeak much to the purpoſe he had done at *White-hall*, which for brevity I paſs by. But at length they came to inſiſt upon my Teſtimony for *Oates* his being in Town in the month of *May* beforementioned, which I endeavouring to evade, they anſwered, I had confeſt it to the Committee, and ſubſcribed my Hand to it, which they ſaid they had ready to produce againſt me, if I retracted from it, and refuſed to do him Juſtice, and own the Truth (for Juſtice and Truth were then words of courſe with him) till, in fine, they plainly told me, This I muſt averr, or there was a Jayl ready hard by to receive me; which truly would have been ſoon done, for the Court was then ſitting, and undoubtedly that accurſed and unlucky Paper, with the ſtrength of *Oates* his credit and ſway at that time of day, would have laid a bigger man than my ſelf by the heels. Reflecting upon the impending Danger, and withal my own already too ruinous condition, I being then under that extreme poverty that I had long lain in a Lodging of but 13 *d.* a week, and was reduced to the moſt preſſing want; and more than all this, having been lately informed of the diſmal effects of *Newgate*, of thoſe great numbers of *Preiſts* and other Priſoners on the Popiſh Account, that daily died through the unhealthineſs of the place, occaſioned by the infinite ſwarms there: My own Poverty, and the imminent Danger of my Life, not only this way, but alſo by

ſome of the old Stories formerly charg'd upon me at the Houſe of Lords, which might ſtill have been revived, with other Additions that the malice of *Oates* and his great Abettors, upon that refuſal, through the prevailing VVickedneſs of thoſe times might have raiſed againſt me. All this, I ſay, together with my own want of Money, Advice, or Friends at that time, and indeed not leiſure enough throughly to conſider the fatal conſequences, the Tryal then haſtning on, my own VVeakneſs at laſt forced me to comply, whileſt my Apprehenſions, Surprize, and Fears overpowred my vanquiſht Reaſon, and huſht all other ſentiments.

Thus was I unfortunately enſnared by a continual Chain of croſs contingencies, together with an Humane Frailty which ſome time or other attends all mankind. Yet truly, that the VVorld may not lie in a miſtaken Opinion, I profeſs before God, Men and Angels, that I neither had any malice againſt any of the perſons then impeacht, whom till then I had never ſeen; nor did I comply through any proſpect of Reward, or Mercenary end whatever, having never had ſo much as one farthing from that day to this, no not ſo much as one ſhilling at the delivery of the *Subpæna.*

The reſt of the Summer I was very quiet, being very kindly treated by *Oates* whenever I came to viſit him. And after *Michaelmas* following *Dangerfield* ſets up his Plot; which when I heard of, in Curioſity I went the next morning to *Oates* to hear his opinion of it; he was in his Chamber, and when I had ſtayed ſome ſmall time with him, in came Sir *Will. Waller*, Coll. *Manſell*, *Peter Gill*, Mr. *Chetwyn*, and *Tho. Merry*, vvith ſome others. *Waller* had a very great bundle of Papers vvhich he pulled out from under his Coat, they having that night ſearched Mrs. *Celliers* Houſe, and brought theſe from thence: *Oates* then ask'd Sir *William* hovv matters vvent, Sir *William* made a diſcourſe of half an hour long; as much of which, as I remember, was to this purpoſe: VVe, ſays he, have ſearcht *Celliers* houſe from top to bottom, with all the care and diligence that men could uſe, and we thought vve might have found ſome Prieſts or Jeſuites, or ſuch ill perſons, or elſe ſome Treaſonable Papers, but vve found none, and ſo vve vvent out of the Houſe; but when we vvere in the ſtreet, in Troth Doctor *I* had an impulſe upon my Spirits to go back and ſearch again; ſo vve re-entred, and *I* remembring a Meal-Tub vvhich *I* had ſeen before there, but had not ſearch'd; *I* examin'd that, and under ſome Flovver at the bottom of it, *I* found all theſe Papers. Likevviſe aftervvards *I* found ſome Papers, but of no great conſequence behind a Pevvter Diſh in the Kitchen: Says *Oates*

to

to this, VVhat are thoſe Papers, vvhat is there in them? Quoth Sir *William*, the Papiſts have throvvn a Plot upon us; They have made the Duke of *Monmouth* a General, and my Lord *Macklesfield* a Lieutenant General, and a great many other Officers (vvhich Sir *William* named, but *I* forgot) but Sir *William* proceeded, nay, they have done me the honour to make me a Collonel. From thence they vvent to the Council vvith the Papers, and only *Oates* and *I* vvere left behind; and no ſooner vvere their Backs turn'd, but ſays *Oates*; *By the Lord they have put theſe Papers into the Meal-Tub themſelves, and found them when they have done.* And truly taking the circumſtances all together, and Sir *Williams* True Proteſtant impulſe for the ſafety of the Nation that made him return again into the Houſe after ſo through a ſearch before; *Oates*'s plain dealing in this matter, look'd vvith a ſhrevvd ſuſpicious face of Truth and Reaſon.

But having mention'd Sir *William*, I cannot omit another prank of his, vvhich vvas his producing of *Pickerings* Gun: He and his gang got a Gun of a confiding Brother, a Gunſmith in the *Minories*, vvhich coſt them a conſiderable ſumm of Money. After this purchaſe, Sir *William*, vvith the aforenamed gang, pretended to make a ſearch into *Pickerings* Houſe in the *Savoy*; and in this ſham ſearch they convey'd the Gun into the Houſe, and amongſt a parcel of Feather-beds, vvhich vvith other goods lay in a confuſed heap, they open'd the Seam in one of the Beds, and clapt in the Gun, and ſovved up the Seam again; and next night making a nevv ſearch, upon pretence of ſome ſecond impulſe of Sir *Williams*, that he had not ſearch'd narrovvly enough before, they found the Gun vvhere they had left it; and tho this King killing Trophy vvas undiſcover'd till this ſecond ſearch, yet a more harmleſs and ſofter Metal in the ſame room, *viz.* 3 or 400 *l.* in old Gold and Silver, did not ſcape him at firſt ſearch; vvith the fore-mention'd Trophy, thus heroically gain'd, theſe True Proteſtant Champions march'd in great Triumph to the King and Council, where Sir *William* upon his Knees made a preſent of it to his Majeſty, vvho commending it for a very pretty Gun, made a preſent of it back again to Sir *William*. But that Sir *William* brought the Money to his Majeſty as well as the *Popiſh* Gun, Hiſtorians make no queſtion.

I cannot paſs by one more of Sir *Williams* Adventures; amongſt the many Apparitions of Popery, viſible only to True Proteſtant eyes, there happened an information of a Lady Abbeſs and a Houſe of Nuns at *Hammerſmith*; this vvas about *March* 1680. Sir *William* pro-

cured a VVarrant from the Council to ſearch this *Popiſh* Seminary; vvhich vvas accordingly done, *Oates* himſelf going along vvith him; and to make the greater buſtle in ſo doughty an undertaking, they put the whole Tovvn of *Hammerſmith* into an uproar, and then moſt manfully broke open the doors, where they found an old Gentlewoman, with 3 or 4 little Girls which ſhe taught Needlework; and to make out this formidable Diſcovery they found out a Diſcipline, which they had formerly taken amongſt the ſpoils of ſome *Popiſh* Houſes: and which *Oates* had a long time before carried in his pocket. VVith this infallible demonſtration of a Monaſtery they returned: VVhich Relique *Oates* kept afterwards in his pocket ſtill, and I have ſeen him flaug his menial Ganymedes with it.

But to return to *Titus* again. His great and ſtupendious Fortune brought his Mother up to Town from *Haſtings* in *Suſſex*, where ſhe was a Midwife, to ſee her Son; which was a little before *Chriſtmas* in 79, who lay with her Husband at his Lodgings in *York* Buildings, where one day I happen'd to dine with them. Some time after dinner the old man went out, and left only me and the old woman together; I ſtaying indeed the longer for a Friend, whom I had order'd to call upon me there. The old woman, (much unlike her Husband and Son) was look'd upon by all that knew her to be a very Pious and Vertuous woman in her way, and at this time treated me very kindly; where diſcourſing with me, ſhe ſaid thus: *Mr. Smith, you have known my Son* Titus *a great while, pray what do you think of him, and this buſineſs*; (meaning the Plot) to which I anſwer'd, *Very well*; not thinking fit to tell her my real ſentiments: The old woman ſhaking her head, replied, *Indeed I do not like it well. Pray God bleſs him. You know, Mr.* Smith, *I have had a great many Children, and by my profeſſion I have skill in Womens concerns. But I believe never woman went ſuch a time with a Child as I did with him. I could ſeldom or never ſleep when I went with him, and when I did ſleep I always dreamt I was with Child of the Devil. But when I came to my Travail, I had ſuch hard Labour that I believe no woman ever had; it was ten to one but it had kill'd me: I was never ſo of any of my other Children. Then when he grew up I thought he would have been a Natural; for his Noſe always run, and he ſlabber'd at the mouth, and his Father could not endure him; and when he came home at night the Boy would uſe to be in the Chimney corner, and my Husband would cry take away this ſnotty Fool, and jumble him about, which made me often weep, becauſe you know he was my Child.*

This

This is *verbatim* what his Mother ſaid of him, for I took ſpecial Notice of her Words. He was Born at *Oakam*, in the County of *Rutland*, his Father being then Chaplain to Collonel *Pride*, where he was brought up in his Childhood. In the Year 1664. he was brought to *Merchant-Taylors-School*, as a *Free-Schollar*, by *Nicholas Delves*, Eſq; now Living; he happening to be in Books that were Taught in my Forms, I was ſent for down to Receive him into the School, which I did in a very unlucky hour. And truly, the firſt Trick he ſerved me, was, That he Cheated me of our Entrance-Money which his Father ſent me, which the Doctor generouſly confeſt in his Greatneſs at *Whitehall*, and very Honeſtly paid me then. I wiſh he had been as juſt in all his other greater Matters; if ſo, the Kingdom had not been in ſuch Tormoyls, nor ſo many Honeſt Men Deſtroyed and Undone.

Coming one Evening to Viſit him at *Whitehall*, I found *Bedloe* and *Prance* with him; amongſt other Diſcourſes, they Talkt of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*: *Oats* Laught at the buſineſs, and ſaid, Here is *Bedloe*, that knew no more of the Murder than you or I did. But he got the Five Hundred Pound, and that did his work, and gave this Blockhead 30 *l.* of it. He pickt him up in the Lobby of the Houſe of Lords, and took him for a Loggerhead fit for his purpoſe; at which *Bedloe* laught heartily, and *Prance* look'd a little dull, as diſpleaſed. At this Rate I have heard *Oats* and *Bedloe* Diſcourſe very often, who uſed always themſelves to make the buſineſs of *Godfrey* a Ridiculous Story, and Entertain'd themſelves when Private with the Jeſt on't.

At the Lord *Staffords* Tryal, I got in for Curioſity amongſt the Witneſſes againſt him; and that Morning the Sentence was paſt, when the Queſtion of *Guilty or not Guilty* paſſing among the Barons, we being ſo near them as to hear what paſt, when the Major Voices at firſt went *Not Guilty*, *Dugdale* walk'd about very Melancholy and Dejected, muttering to himſelf: I ask'd him, what was the matter? he Replyed, *I believe he'l be Quitted, and I am undone; but let what will come on't, I am Ruin'd.* I hapned the Winter after this to be in *Dugdales* Company, in the Kitchin at the *Three-Tun Tavern* at *Charing-Croſs* one Night; where an Old Gentleman happening to come to the Bar to Inquire for ſome Perſon there, I obſerved *Dugdale* to ſtartle and ſtare: I ask'd him, what was the matter? he made me no Reply, but in much diſorder roſe up, and went to the Woman at the Bar, (the Gentleman being then gone) and ask'd, who that Antient Gentlemen was? ſhe told him, ſhe knew him not. *God bleſs me*, ſaid he, *I believe 'tis my Lord* Stafford! (as the Woman Inform'd me afterwards) and returning again to me, I ask'd him what he went out for? *Lord!* ſays he, *Did you not ſee a Gentleman come to the Bar, and Speak to the Woman of the*

 Houſe?

House? No, said I, *My Back was towards the Bar, and I saw him not. I Protest*, replyed he, *I thought it had been my Lord* Stafford; and continued so terrified with the Apprehension, that he was very uneasie, and went away.

This story coming to his Landladies Ear, who lived within a few Doors of the place, her Name Mrs. *Beak*, she and I discoursing this Matter, she told me also something of the like Nature of him, which was this: Having occasion to come into his Bed-Chamber for something, one Night, that she wanted from thence, when *Dugdale* was in bed, she went in softly with a candle in her hand, and a white Apron on, designing if asleep not to wake him; no sooner came she in, but *Dugdale* in a very great Fright and start, cryed out, *Stafford! Stafford! Stafford!* with many other expressions of a most Terrible Fear, till the Woman with much ado at last undeceived him.

It will not be amiss, in this place, to add the Relation of *Turbevils* Death, the other great Witness against the Lord *Stafford:* Falling sick of the *Small-Pox* at his Landladies, Mrs. *Holmes* in the *Savoy*, near his Death he began to Rave extreamly of *Stafford*, crying, *Take away* Stafford! *Take away* Stafford! with several other continued crys upon the same subject; which several Persons, both the Landladies Relations and others will Testifie: and at the Minute of his Death, his Bed shook so extreamly, that his Landlady and several other People then present, thought it would have fal'n to pieces. Nay, and there came such a strong blast of Wind, that the People were afraid the House would have been blown down. And 'tis not unknown also, that a much greater Man than *Turbevil*, at his *Exit* demonstrated an extraordinary Remembrance of *Stafford*.

I have given the *Reader* these particulars of my Conversation and Knowledge of those Villains, hoping that this small detection, (being what lay in my Reach) of these *Hellish Impostures*, which then Ruled our Ascendant, will not be ungrateful: And how unhappy soever I have been to my self, I have nevertheless always been a Faithful and Loyal Subject, and in those worst of *Times*, in my greatest Familiarity with *Oats*, I have used my little Power with him, to divert him from his Wickedness, having at several times, (as far as I durst with safety) disswaded him from divers of his Malitious Accusations. In the Year 1681. I wholy deserted his company, and have never spoken to him since, and also gave Mr. *Secretary Jenkins* an Honest Account of things that I heard and saw, intending it as a Service to the King, as these following *Depositions* will Attest for me.

September

September 19th 1681. I delivered this to Mr. Secretary Jenkins at his Office in Whitehall.

About the time that Mr. Colledge *was taken, I well remember one Mr.* William Smith, *a Fifth-Monarchy-man, askt me in* Otes's *Chamber in* Whitehall, *in the preſence of* James Creſwel, William Dalby, *and* William Powel, (*the two firſt being* Otes's *Menial Servants*) *where* Smith *the Prieſt*, Macnamarra, *and the other* Iriſh *Witneſſes Lodged? I askt him why he enquired their Lodgings? he replyed, That himſelf and others would take them and carry them to* Tyburn, *and hang them on the Gallows, and pin papers on their Backs, to enform the World why they were Hanged. The ſaid* Smith *likewiſe told me at* Greys *in* Scotland-yard, *That he and others would be about* Henly, *and meet* Colledge, *and Reſcue him as eaſily as they formerly Reſcued* Maſon. *This was in the preſence of the aforeſaid* Powel *and* Dalby; Smith *then called* Dalby *into the next Room, and talked with him ſome time.*

About Bartholomew-tide 1680, *Alderman* Wilcocks *gave a Treat at the Crown Tavern without* Temple-Barr *to divers Gentlemen, of which (he being my very good Friend) I was one, the time appointed was one a Clock, about which time* Otes, *his Brother* Sam, *and Counſellor* Smith *came; and about half an hour after, up comes* John Smith *and* Colledge; *I not then well knowing* Colledge, *askt* John Smith, *who he was, which he told me, ſaying, It was Mr.* Colledge *the Proteſtant Joyner: One of the Company (I think it was* Colledge) *produced a Pamplet in Quarto of two ſheets, about the Duke of* York, *which was Read: It was long before Dinner came up, which being ended, Mr.* Otes, *Mr.* Savage, *and Mr.* John Smith, *fell into a friendly diſpute in Divinity; Mr.* Colledge *was ſo far from ſleeping during their Diſcourſe, that he was often interrupting them with his Quibbles and Rhime-doggrel, for which* Otes *rebuked him. I am very certain, neither* Colledge, *nor any body elſe, ſlept in the Room before Dinner or after: We parted, and I left* Otes, Smith, Colledge, *and others of the Company in an Alley by the* Palſgraves head.

The very day after (as I take it) that Colledge *was Condemned, about Nine in the Morning, I was walking through St.* Margarets

Church-yard, Weſtminſter, and Mr. Hunt *the Lawyer hum'd to me; I met him, he complained of* Colledges *ill uſage in many bitter expreſſions; among others, I very well remember, he ſaid theſe words at our parting:* By God, this pace will not carry it; we muſt take another courſe *I askt him, what? he replyed,* We muſt Dagger them, nothing but a Dagger will do it. *Dagger who, quoth I?* Theſe Rogues the Judges, *ſays he;* we muſt make a Tumult in the ſtreet, and Stab them like Villains in their Coaches, for an Example to others; for no good will be done, we ſhall have no Juſtice, till theſe Rogues be ſerved ſo.

Mr. Merry *ſaid to me in Mr.* Otes's *Chamber at* Whitehall, *when the Parliament was ſitting at* Oxford, 168°. That the King had a Deſign to ſeize upon all the Proteſtant honeſt Lords and Gentlemen at *Oxford*, and chop off their Heads; *but, ſays he,* They are well provided for Defence and Offence; yet the King will cut off all the honeſt Party, and bring in Popery at laſt by the help of the King of *France*; but if he Travels once more, neither he, nor any of the Race of him, will ever return.

Rhoderick Manſel *at* Lambs *Ordinary in* March 1679. *told Mr.* Savage, *Mr.* Hughs, *Mr.* Button, *and my ſelf*; That there were Commiſſions given out, that Sir *William Waller* had ſeized them, that he had ſeen them, that he knew of Twenty Horſes in divers Stables ready, that he and Collonel *Diſney* would Head the Prentices; that he would Fight for the Cauſe in Blood up to the Knees, and that the King reſolved to bring in *Popery*. *This was before the buſineſs of Captain* Tom.

Nicholſon, *when he was fitting up* Otes's *Piſtols, a little before the Parliament met at* Oxford, *ſaid to me*; Come, come, we ſhall have occaſion for theſe before we come back again from *Oxford*; I ſhall be once again on Horſeback: I would I were Twenty Years Younger. *He was a Trooper in* Cromwells *Army.*

The aforeſaid Creſwel *is a moſt Audacious Villain; His many Horrid Expreſſions againſt the King, and the great Miniſters of State, would fill many Sheets. His ordinary Execrations againſt the King, are,* The Devil confound him, he is a *Papiſt*; the Devil run through him with a Scythe at's Back: The Devil Run through that *Papiſt Whore,* that *Bitch,* the Queen with a Scythe at's Back. *The like Curſes againſt the Chancellor, Mr.* Seymore, *Secretary* Jenkins, *Privy Seal,* &c. *I have heard him expreſs, (I do really think) above a hundred times.*

Doctor

Doctor Oates *hath in my hearing, I belive, a hundred times, affirmed very Peremptorily,* That the Supream Power was in the People, That the King was but the Peoples Servant and Steward; That the People had Power to Depose him, and set up another when they pleased: That the King was as deep in the Plot, and was as Errant a Papist as his Brother: That the King had Suborned VVitnesses to stifle the *Popish Plot*, and to throw it upon the *Protestants*; *mentioning* Dangerfield, Tongue, *and* Fitz-Harris.

One day, when Tongue *was Examined before the Council,* Otes *told me,* All the Subornation will come up to our Master at last; *meaning the King.*

Many times Otes *has said to me,* His Fingers Itches (*meaning the King*) to bring in *Popery,* and the *French Government*; But it will not do; we are ready, we are Provided against him with Men and Arms, upon any occasion: He may remember what became of former Kings that abused *Parliaments*: Let him Remember his Father; He must expect the same Sauce if he goes on.

The Persons that most frequented Otes's *Chamber, were, Councellor* Smith, Starkey, Pascal, Charleton, Aaron Smith, VVilson, Burroughs, Nelthrop, VVest, Hunt, Snow, Halford, Blaney, Merry, Mansel, *Sir* Hugh Inglesby, *Collonel* Scot, Chetwin, Colledge, Yarrington, Harrington, *Dr.* Jones, *Dr.* Butler, *Dr.* Pele, *Dr.* — *a Prebendary of* Chichester, Cannon, Billing, Penn, *and* VVhitacre.

That Afternoon Oats *Returned from* Oxford *after* Colledges *Tryal, he laid him down on the Chairs in his Chamber at* Whitehall, *and said,* Oh! there is a great Man fallen this day in *Israel*! I wish I may lay down my Life in so just a Cause: He is his Countries *Martyr*. Well! well! we may now see how the Game is like to go; Our Master (*meaning the King*) is resolved to bring in *Popery*: No Man ever had such foul Play as this poor *Colledge*; all the *True Protestants* will be Murdered thus one after another.

Major Wildman, *and Mr.* Charleton *Furnished* Oats *at his going to* Oxford *to the Parliament with Forty Pound, his Collections are now gathered by* Elias Best *the Hop-Merchant in* Thames-street.

William Powel *said to me one day in* Scotland-yard, Dam this Dog *Warcup*! By God, if I could light on him handsomely, I would Cut his Throat, he hath been the cause of all this mischief; *meaning*

the busines's of Colledge. *This* Powel *will commonly say,* Our Family lost a great Estate by *Windsor* at the Kings coming in, but if things go on we shall get it again I doubt not.

I have divers times in Oats's *Chamber in* Whitehall (*particularly after the Dissolution of the Two last Parliaments, and during that at* Westminster) *heard* Henry Starkey, Aaron Smith, *Mr.* Hunt, *Mr.* Wilson, *Mr.* Chetwin, *Mr.* Thomas Merry, *Mr.* Richard Halford, *Mr.* VVhitaker, *Collonel* Mansel, *and Doctor* Oates; *Affirm and Discourse thus,* VVe have 20000 Horse and Foot, ready Armed upon occasion; we Value not the Kings Guards a Fart; and if the Duke of *Monmouth* will but draw his Sword, he'l find Friends enough; and if the Parliament would but sit, their Friends could Protect them against the King, and all his Guards. *The means how they can have* 20000 *Men so ready (as far as I could perceive) is this, The Gentlemen of the Three Great Clubs, and their Adherents of the better sort, and the meaner sort of the Trained-bands, are double Armed; I have heard many of them say,* They would loose their Lives before they would part with their Arms, and if the King should come to demand them, they would Fire upon him.

I Remember, when the matter of presenting the Guards was on Foot, that Mr. Merry *said to me,* The Grand Inquest are Cowardly and Timerous Fellows, and dare not go through with the work, they are too much of the Court Party; *but afterwards upon advice from my Lord* Shaftsbury, *the business was laid aside: My Lord said,* It was better to let the Guards alone, because they were of small moment to obstruct our Designs, and help'd to Impoverish the King; *This Dr.* Otes *told me, and I once heard my Lord Speak to that purpose.* Otes *often visited my Lord* Shaftsbury, *and was put upon Swearing against the Duke of* York, *by his Instigation; as* Otes *himself told me, and verily, I believe it was true. Dr.* Otes, *when I have ask'd him of my Lord* Shaftsbury, *hath often told me, my Lord was Well, and would say,* what are they all Starved yet at *Whitehall?* the King will not be able to buy a Shirt to his Back in a short time.

And I once heard my Lord say to Otes; I shall see thee Bishop of *Winchester,* or *Canterbury* before I Dye: *This was occasioned by* Otes's *threatning my Lord Chancellor, and saying,* He was a Rogue, and he would stick as close to him as the Shirt on his back. *This was in* August, 1679.

Aaron

Aaron Smith *told me in* Otes's *Chamber, that a Nameſake of mine made the Ballad of the* Raree Show, *I ask'd him,* who, *he then anſwered me,* You ſee him.

Mr. Burroughs *the Glaſs-ſeller in* York-buildings, *commonly repaired to* Otes's *Chamber on* Sunday *in the Morning. His Province is to get to be a Jury Man at* Hicks's-Hall *and* VVeſtminſter, *and to obſtruct all buſineſs tending to the advantage of the Crown, to make a diſturbance in the Pariſh, to Rail againſt the Biſhops, to perſwade the People the King is bringing in Arbitrary Power and Popery, and to Contribute, and Raiſe Money for* Otes.

Mr. VVilſon *one morning in* March *laſt, in* Otes's *Chamber Diſcourſed to me thus;* VVe muſt draw our Swords, nothing will be done with theſe Pimps and Rogues without it, *meaning the Miniſters of State:* The King will never be good till we force him to it; nor the Nation Happy till another courſe be taken; we ſhall ſee Popery and Deſpotical Power overwhelm us, unleſs we draw our Swords, and Fight for our Religion and Liberty. *This* VVilſon *was continually Singing Bawdy and Treaſonable Songs Reflecting on the King.*

Mr. Richard Halford *is an old Leveller, and a Commonwealths man; He was an Agitator at* New-Market, *and in* Thompſons *Broil at* Burford, *in* 1647. *and hath been (I do believe) in all the Factious Cabals this Twenty Years: He is a very cloſe and dangerous Man, and hath had the Dexterity to Preſerve himſelf undiſcovered.*

Mr. Blaney *of the* Temple, *the Short-Hand Writer, did in my hearing in* Otes's *Chamber ſay,* There was a Printing-Preſs in the *Temple,* where they could do any thing: *and by ſeveral hints I have heard, I am perſwaded, moſt of the Treaſonable Libels of late Years were Printed there. Mr.* John Harrington *did at the ſame time Demonſtrate how eaſie it was for a Gentleman to Compoſe and Print, which, he ſaid,* Prevented all the Diſcovery by Mercenary Printers.

Sir Henry Inglesby *told me, one Afternoon in* September *laſt, in* Otes's *Chamber,* That he believed all the *True Proteſtants* in *Ireland,* would have their Throats Cut in a ſhort time by the *Papiſts,* and that by the connivance, if not command of the Duke of *Ormond,* and ſome body elſe.

Mr. VVilliam Snow, *who belongs to the Houſe of Lords, is a very great Confident of Dr.* Otes's: *He, when the Parliament Sits, Informs*

the Factious Party what he hears about the House of Lords; shows Lists of the Lords Names, and tells which are Honest Protestants, and which are Rogues and Tories: He is a constant Singer of all the late Treasonable and Bawdy Ballads, that abuse the King and Government.

Mr. VVilliam Dalby, Otes's *Clerk, hath often told me,* That the King was a *Papist,* that Mr. *Persons* of the *Temple* had many times seen him at *Mass* at *Somerset-House:* That the King was drunk when he Dissolved the Parliament at *Oxford,* so Drunk that he could not stand or Speak. *I have often heard Mr.* Dalby *say,* This *Popish* Race of the *Stewarts* must be Rooted out, there must be a Change. *He was formerly Clerk to the Committee of the Rebels in* Rutland.

Thus far Gentlemen, I have given you a small insight into this Grand Popular Cheat, this great Mystery of Iniquity, and as far as my little Walk amongst them has Empower'd me to do. And truly, if all Persons farther concern'd, would be as Candid as my Self, undoubtedly the whole Imposture *would be fully Detected, and the yet unsatisfied part of Mankind wholly undeceived.*

FINIS.